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#80

EAST EUROPE BRANCH NOTES

OCI # 0585/74
12 June 1974

BULGARIA

More on the Schpeter Espionage Case

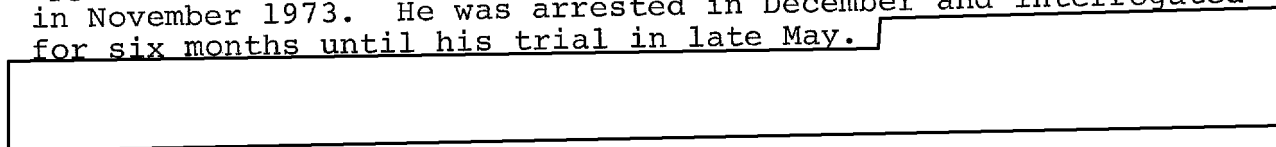
Diplomats in Sofia now suspect that the espionage case of Henrich Schpeter may not be an isolated incident. An Austrian citizen was arrested for espionage in April, and now a German citizen who had been missing for several days reportedly has been arrested on charges of economic espionage. While these cases have no specific ties that we know of, all three of the accused spent some time in Vienna, and information derived from Schpeter's interrogation may have led to the arrest of the other two.

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More details on Schpeter's case also are being uncovered. Apparently Schpeter, a Jew, applied for emigration to Israel in November 1973. He was arrested in December and interrogated for six months until his trial in late May.

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CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Svoboda Is Doing Well

President Svoboda has confounded the experts, Foreign Minister Chnoupek told the US Charge on June 11. The old warrior's condition has improved to the point where he is sitting up and has even stood up. He is also taking an active interest in developments. The doctors explain this improvement by the favorable condition of Svoboda's heart, which has withstood two embolisms. Chnoupek did not offer a prognosis.

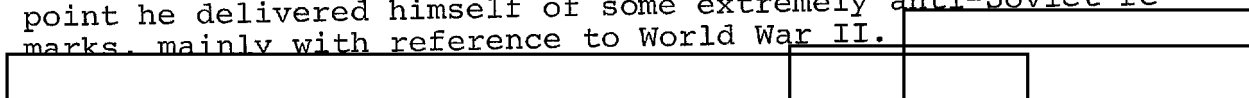
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One story to come out of Svoboda's illness is that at one point he delivered himself of some extremely anti-Soviet remarks, mainly with reference to World War II.

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State Dept. review completed

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